

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 L-03 ERDA-05 OES-07

PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SSO-00

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7379

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4615

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, IN, PK, UN, US

SUBJECT: 32ND UNGA: US/INDIA CONSULTATIONS ON SOUTH ASIA

NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONE (SANWFZ) RESOLUTION

REF: (A) FISHER/HELMAN TELCON (B) USUN 4351

1. SUMMARY. US REP (FISHER) TOLD INDIA REP (GHAREKHAN) THAT US WAS CONSIDERING SUPPORT FOR PAKISTANI SANWFZ RESOLUTION, BUT WANTED INDIA'S VIEWS FIRST BEFORE TAKING DECISION. GHAREKHAN REQUESTED US TO ABSTAIN ON PAKISTAN RES AS IN PAST, EXPLAINING INDIA'S OPPOSITION AS BASED ON FOLLOWING: A) SOUTH ASIA AS DEFINED BY PAKISTAN IS AN ARTIFICIAL REGION; B) INITIATIVE FOR A ZONE SHOULD COME FROM AGREEMENT AMONG STATES IN THE REGION, NOT FROM THE UN; C) NO ASIAN NWFZ IS POSSIBLE AS LONG AS CHINA REMAINS NUCLEAR POWER. ALTHOUGH WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS, GHAREKHAN BELIEVES GOI REACTION TO US SUPPORT FOR SANWFZ RESOLUTION WOULD BE UNFAVORABLE. END SUMMARY.

1. AMBASSADOR FISHER MET WITH INDIA CCD REP GHAREKHAN AT THE UN NOVEMBER 11 TO SEEK INDIA'S VIEWS ON PAKISTANI SOUTH ASIA NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONE (SANWFZ) RESOLUTION. FISHER SAID US WAS CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF SUPPORTING THE RESOLUTION THIS
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YEAR, BUT WANTED TO TAKE INDIA'S VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT BEFORE REACHING A DECISION. HE REMINDED GHAREKHAN OF THE PRESIDENT'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS ENDORSING THE PRINCIPLES OF NUCLEAR -WEAPON-FREE-ZONES. NOTING THAT THE PAKISTANI TEXT DID NOT APPEAR TO BE AIMED AGAINST INDIA, FISHER RECALLED THAT PAKISTANIS HAD COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON THE INDIAN STATEMENT IN THE FIRST COMMITTEE THAT INDIA ITSELF IS A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE (NWFZ).

2. GHAREKHAN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THE PAKISTANI RESOLUTION. RECALLING THAT PAKISTAN HAD FIRST INTRODUCED A RESOLUTION ON THIS SUBJECT IN 1974 AFTER THE INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST, HE SAID THAT THE RESOLUTION WAS QIMED AGAINST NDIA.

3. GHAREKHAN CONTINUED BY SAYING THAT INDIA AGREED WITH THE US IN SUPPORTING THE NWFZ PRINCIPLE WORLDWIDE AND IF THIS WER NOT POSSIBLE, IN APPROPRIATE REGIONS OR EVEN INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES SUCH AS INDIA. INDIA BELIEVES HOWEVER, THAT THERE ARE THREE BASIS CONSIDERATIONS FOR ANY NWFZ: A) THAT THE REGION SHOULD BE WELL-DEFINED AND NOT ARTIFICIAL IN NATURE; B) THAT THE INITIATIVE FOR THE ZONE SHOULD COME FROM THE STATES IN THE REGION, AS WAS THE CASE IN THE LATIN AMERICAN INITIATIVE IN THE-TREATY OF TLATELOLCO; AND C) THAT THE REGION SHOULD BE FREE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. NONE OF THESE CONDITIONS, GHAREKHAN SAID, APPLIED TO THE PAKISTANI INITIATIVE. SOUTH ASIA IS DEFINED BY PAKISTAN, IS ACTUALLY A SUB-REGION OF ASIA AND, BY ITSELF, AN ARTIFICIAL ZONE. MOREOVER, IN THIS INSTANCE THE INITIATIVE FOR A NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONE WOULD COME FROM THE UN RATHER THAN FROM BILATERAL AND MILTILATERAL CONSULTATIONS AMONG THE STATES IN THE AREA. SINCE CHINA IS AN ASIAN NUCLEAR WEAPON STATE, ASIA CLEARLY COULD NOT BE TREATED AS A NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONE.

4. IN VIEW OF THESE CONSIDERATIONS, GHAREKHAN SAID INDIA
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WAS OPPOSED TO THE PAKISTANI RESOLUTION. INDIA HOPES THAT THE US WILL ABSTAIN AS IT HAS DONE IN PREVIOUS YEARS. ASKED BY FISHER TO ESTIMATE POSSIBLE INDIAN REACTION ON SCALE RANGING GROM MILD UNHAPPINESS TO OUTRAGE WERE WE TO SUPPORT THE RESOLUTION, GHAREKHAN SAID THAT HE COULD NOT PROVIDE OFFICIAL REACTION IN THE ABSENCE OF INSTRU TIONS, BUT HE BELIEVES THAT INDIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE UNHAPPY. IN REPLY TO FISHER'S QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THERE WERE ANY CHANGES TO THE TEXT WHICH COULD MAKE IT LESS OBJECTIONABLE TO INDIA, GHAREKHAN SAID THAT THE PROBLEM WAS NOT WITH ELEMENTS OF THE TEXT BUT WITH THE WHOLE IDEA.

5. IN CONCLUDING THE DISCUSSION, GHAREKHAN ASSURED FISHER THAT INDIA HAS NO INTENTION OF MANUFACTURING NUCLEAR WEAPONS; FISHER SAID HE KNEW THIS TO BE THE CASE. AS TO THE US POSITION ON SANWFZ RESOLUTION, FISHER SAID OUR POSITION WOULD BE DECIDED SHORTLY AND COULD CONCEIVABLY BE A FAVORABLE ONE IN VIEW OF OUR POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE NWFZ CONCEPT.

6. IT IS THE BELIEF OF THE MISSION THAT IN VIEW OF THE US PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE NWFZ CONCEPT, IT WOULD BE IN OUR OVERALL INTEREST TO SUPPORT A REASONABLE NWFZ PROPOSAL SUCH AS THAT ENVISAGED IN THE PAKISTAN RESOLUTION. IT STRIKES IN THAT GHANKHAN'S REACTION, WHILE PREDICTABLE, WAS RELATIVELY MILD. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE IMPLICATIONS FOR

OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH INDIA MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. ON BALANCE, HOWEVER, GIVEN THE PRESIDENTS STRONG ENDORSEMENT OF THE NWFZ IDEA, WE BELIEVE THAT SUPPORT OF THE PAKISTANI RES WOULD ADD CONSIDERABLY TO THE CREDIBILITY OF OUR OVERALL POSITION ON THE NWFZ QUESTION.

7 AT ABOUT SAME TIME AS ABOVE CONVERSTATION, AMBASSADOR LEONARD ENCOURTERED INDIAN PERM REP JAIPAL AND ASKED WHETHER FISHER HAD MET WITH GAREKAHN TO CONVEY US COMMENTS ON PAKISTAN RESOLUTION. JAIPAL SAID "NOT" AND LEONARD EXPLAINED US POSITION ON ABOVE LINES. JAIPAL EXPRESSED NO SURPRISE THAT US LIKELY TO SUPPORT PAKISTAI RESOLUTION. HE OUTLINED INDIAN PROBLEMS WITH IT BUT URGED THAT US NOT MAKE ANY EFFORT WITH PAKISTAN "TO IMPROVE RESOLUTION" BUT SIMPLY VOTE AS IT
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THOUGHT IT MUST. HE RECALLED THAT TWO YEARS AGO INDIA HAD SUBMITTED ITS OWN NFZ RESOLUTION WHICH HAD BEEN APPROVED ALONG WITH PAKISTAN RESOLUTION BUT THAT THIS EXERCISE NOT WORTH WITH THIS YEAR.
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Message Attributes

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